

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art made of record discloses, teaches, or suggests (a) an apparatus comprising a brush enclosure extending over a length, the brush enclosure having an open region that enables foam from within the brush enclosure to contact a surface of the substrate, the open region extending over the length of the brush enclosure, a first flange extending outward from the brush enclosure along the length and along a first side of the open region, a second flange extending from the brush enclosure along the length and a second side of the open region, wherein a flat bottom surface of the first and second flange is substantially parallel to the horizontal surface of the substrate, wherein the first and second flanges each have an opening extending therethrough, the opening connected to a vacuum source, and a brush disposed within the brush enclosure, the brush configured to deliver a fluid to the horizontal surface of the substrate through a conduit defined around an axis of the brush (b) an elongated enclosure configured to enclose a brush, the enclosure having opposite ends defining a length and having an open region along the length, a flange along the length of the elongated enclosure extending radially outward from an outer surface of the enclosure, the flange defining a flat bottom surface, the flange has a conduit connected to a vacuum source to remove liquid, and a brush disposed within the elongated enclosure, the brush configured to deliver a fluid to the surface of the substrate through a conduit defined around a brush axis or (c) a first brush enclosure, a first brush having a majority of its outer diameter enclosed within the first brush enclosure, a first and second drive

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rollers configured to receive an edge of a substrate to support and rotate the substrate, a second brush enclosure, the second brush having a majority of an outer diameter of the second brush enclosed within the second brush enclosure, each of the brush enclosures include a corresponding flange along a length of each enclosure, the flange extending radially outward from an outer surface of each enclosure, the flange defining a flat bottom surface.

In US 6,167,583 to Miyashita et al. there are two brushes enclosed by first and second brush enclosures. Neither enclosure has a majority of an outer diameter of the brush enclosed within the enclosure, includes a first or second flange, nor a flange having an opening connected to a vacuum source. It is noted that the brush disposed within the brush enclosure has a conduit defined around an axis of the brush to deliver fluid to a substrate.

US 2002/0112312 to Lin teaches a brush enclosure having an open region, a first and second flange, and a brush disposed within the brush enclosure. The first and second flanges each include an opening extending therethrough. However, Lin does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the opening is connected to a vacuum source (although it is capable of being connected to such a source), a brush having a conduit defined around its axis, a second brush enclosure, a second brush, or first or second drive rollers.

It is also known in the art to have "enclosure" such as the one discussed in US 6,643,893 to Momonoi et al., the enclosure of which has a flange with an opening connected to a vacuum source. In one embodiment of Momonoi et al., Figure 17, there

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is a brush (30), however it is not enclosed by the enclosure that has a flange with an opening. In addition, the device of Momonoi et al. does not have a second flange, a brush disposed within the brush enclosure, or that there is a conduit defined around an axis of the brush.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura C. Guidotti whose telephone number is (571) 272-1272. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30am - 5pm, alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on (571) 272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Laura C Guidotti/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3723

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